



Wisconsin Health Care Association

TO: Representative John Townsend, Chair, and Members of the Assembly
Committee on Aging and Long Term Care

FROM: Jim McGinn, WHCA

DATE: January 22, 2008

RE: Assembly Bill 674

The Wisconsin Health Care Association (WHCA) is a statewide organization which represents 180 proprietary, non-profit, and municipal nursing homes as well as community based residential facilities, residential care apartment complexes, and other providers of long-term care services.

WHCA supports AB 674, which was introduced by Representative Kitty Rhoades and Senator Russ Decker, by request of Governor Jim Doyle.

As Co-Chairs of the Joint Finance Committee, Representative Rhoades and Senator Decker agreed to remove approximately 50 items advanced by the Governor in his budget proposal because the proposals were considered policy, not fiscal matters, and should be advanced as separate bills. Accordingly, Representative Rhoades and Senator Decker introduced AB 674.

Briefly, AB 674 reduces the statewide licensed nursing home bed cap from 51,795 to 42,000 beds. Also, the measure changes the limitation on transferring a licensed nursing home bed from within the same planning area to allow the transfer of a nursing home bed to an adjoining planning area.

Attached are the current 7 designated health planning areas. Again, the bill will allow the transfer of beds to an adjoining planning area. For example, assuming my geographic knowledge of Wisconsin is accurate, AB 674 would permit the transfer of beds from Eagle River (Vilas County) to Fond du Lac (Fond du Lac county), or from planning area 6 to planning area 3. Current law would limit the transfer of beds from Vilas County to only counties that adjoin planning area 6, which would exclude Fond du Lac county.

In the past several years, over 5,000 nursing home beds have been closed as facilities focus on rehabilitating the elderly and disabled and returning them to home or other long-term care settings. At the same time, the baby-boomers are aging and will need additional long-term care services in the very near future. AB 674 will simply allow nursing homes the flexibility to move beds from one area of the state to another to address the increase in demand for long-term care services.

WHCA requests the Committee's support for AB 674.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

334-5
HSS 122

APPENDIX A

Designated Health Planning Areas in Wisconsin
[HSS 122.03 (15)]

Health Planning Area #1

Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Grant, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Lafayette, Richland, Rock, Sauk counties

Health Planning Area #2

Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha counties

Health Planning Area #3

Calumet, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Marquette, Outagamie, Waupaca, Waushara, Winnebago counties

Health Planning Area #4

Brown, Door, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto, Shawano, Sheboygan counties

Health Planning Area #5

Barron, Buffalo, Chippewa, Clark, Crawford, Dunn, Eau Claire, Jackson, La Crosse, Monroe, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, Rusk, St. Croix, Trempealeau, Vernon counties

Health Planning Area #6

Adams, Florence, Forest, Juneau, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Oneida, Portage, Taylor, Vilas, Wood counties

Health Planning Area #7

Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Iron, Price, Sawyer, Washburn counties